

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-10, 32, 38-39 and 49-64 are pending.

By the present amendment, independent claims 61-64 have replaced dependent claims 47, 48, 30 and 31, respectively, with the dependency of claims 32 and 49 having been amended accordingly. Finally, new claims 50-60 have been added to provide additional patent protection for the subject matter in question. A marked up copy of the amended claims is attached as Appendix A hereto.

Support of the newly added claims can be found throughout the specification. Attention is directed, for example, to page 33, lines 20-28, page 34, lines 1-7, page 45, lines 1-14, pages 48, 49, 68, Example 39 and Figures 53-55. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.607, Applicants hereby offer the following information:

Claims 50 at least substantially corresponds to Claim 2 of U.S. Patent 6,063,039, and Claim 2 of U.S. Patent 6,153,992;

Claims 51-54 at least substantially correspond to one or more of Claims 1, 4 and 7 of U.S. Patent 6,206,841; and

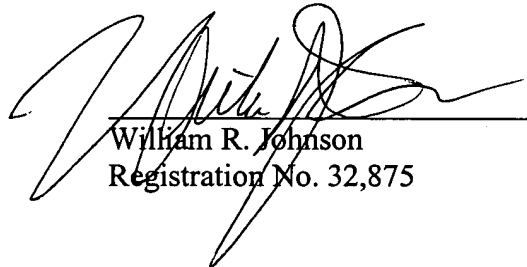
Claims 55-60 at least substantially correspond to one or more of Claims 18 and 47 of U.S. Patent 6,063,039.



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As a final matter, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this paper, or the application in general, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

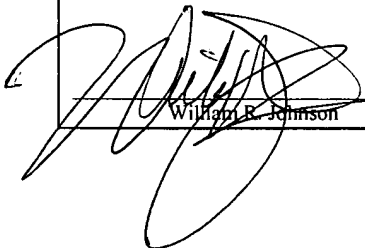


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 27th day of March, 2002.



William R. Johnson

3-27-02

Date



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APPENDIX A

32. (Amended) The combination of claim [31] 64, and further comprising a sealed electrical connection to the sensor and/or probe via the sealing means.
49. (Amended) The method of claim [48] 62, and further comprising the step of forming a sealed chamber over the layer and the sensor.